



First Church Vision

November 2019

Working toward a peaceful and just world, guided by Love

Member Musings

So, Mr. Moran, where do you see yourself in 5 years, or 10 years down the road? I was asked this question or variants thereof numerous times over the years during job interviews. It was the question I hated the most, possibly because it was so lame and formulaic. Did it even have a correct answer? As it turns out, it does. Hold that thought. †

So, if we were to turn the question towards our spiritual community and ask, where do we want First Church to be in 5 or 10 years? Perfectly acceptable responses might be “here” or “open.” Given the challenges of these times to churches, such concerns are totally relevant. We are also used to thinking about churches as constants in our lives. Come rain or shine, good times or bad, we are accustomed to thinking of churches as rock solid communal institutions. Nowadays, we are seeing incontrovertible evidence that this assumption is in serious jeopardy, like so many things we fondly remember from our past.

What if we want more than just survival? What if we want First Church not only to survive, but to grow, prosper and ascend to a position or recognition and responsibility in our community? What would the worship and fellowship experience of that kind of church be? Would we miss the intimacy that our small, yet dedicated community offers us now? To these questions, there are probably as many different answers as there are congregants.

There are many paths that an institution like ours can take towards the future. Every one of them is fraught with both peril and possibilities. Most of the ones besides simply staying where we are right now are a little scary to contemplate. That is the unchanging thing about change, it is almost always a little frightening. Sometimes it is worth enduring the discomfort, sometimes it is not. Thinking back over the nearly 21 years of being a member of First Church, I remember many different versions of First Church. I would like to see various elements of some of those churches return, and some are best consigned to history. Like it or not, First Church has always evolved, and will continue to evolve. Change really is the law of life.

†Answer to “where do you see yourself” question if you happen to be in the employment market. The correct answer is “Doing your job!” Employers like that, it shows ambition!

On another topic, this is my third “Member Musing” column in a row. I hope you have enjoyed them, and maybe even spared a thought or two about my ruminations. I don’t want to monopolize the forum. It is important to hear other voices, so consider this as my stepping back for a little while to let others have their say.

Mark Moran



Shared Ministry Team

Betsy Moran: Congregation President and Parish Committee Chair

Worship Coordinator: Stephanie Trudel

Minister Emerita:

The Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki Brown

Upcoming Worship Dates and Sermon Topics



- Nov. 3rd:** "Lucky Mud", Rev. Richard Trudeau
- Nov. 10th:** "Peace for Veterans", Rabbi Yaakov
- Nov. 17th:** "Spotlight on Grace and Edith Abbott"
- Nov. 24th:** "God is not God's Name", Rev. Steve Edigton

Notes from the Parish Committee

Happy Thanksgiving in advance!

I cannot believe we are entering our 3rd month of the church year and talking about the holidays already. It is tough to live in a fast-paced life. Why is it when you are young, things take for-ever, but when more, ahem, mature, life flies by?



Can't answer that one!

In October we held our fall bi-annual business meeting where we approved the Nominating Committee and the 2020 fiscal year budget. We also heard summary reports of various committees, teams, and groups within the church. We also received a brief summary of the requirements to fulfill the recertification of our Welcoming Congregation status under "New Business". If anyone was unable to attend the business meeting and would like a packet emailed to you, please let me or the church office know.

A couple of questions were asked about our Endowment investments and how they can be managed or protected in the (likely) event of an economic downturn in 2020 and beyond. Questions like, what are possible contingency plan; what Edward Jones can (our brokerage house) do to protect the funds; do they have stable money market funds that are guaranteed, and the like. Since we don't fully know the answers to these questions, the Endowment Committee invited our Edward Jones representative to meet at the next **Parish Committee meeting on November 14 at 6:30pm**. Anyone interested in hearing what the brokerage representative has to say is wholeheartedly invited to the Parish Committee meeting. We should all be extremely interested in this since the Endowment interest is one of the sources of our operating funds. If anyone has a specific question that they would like to ask or have us ask about our Endowment funds management, please send your questions to me (betsy@firstchurchuu.org) or to the office (office@firstchurchuu.org).

You may have noticed I used a different email for the church office. There is a good chance we are moving to a different internet service provider which will cause us to lose the verizon.net address. I'm not entirely sure about that yet since it is managed by AOL. We do have several email addresses through our website provider and this new office email address is one. The 1stchurchoffice@verizon.net is still active but if you could start transitioning to the office@firstchurchuu.org address.

Until next time.....

"Lucky Mud"

Rev. Richard Trudeau
Nov. 3rd

What are we human beings, when you get right down to it? When you get way, way, way, ... down to it?

Rev. Richard Trudeau was for 17 years the minister of the UU Church of Weymouth and for 35 years a teacher of math and the history of astronomy at Stonehill College in Easton. His latest book is *Bible Stories for Skeptics*. He is married to Susan O'Connor, who just retired from being the general manager of Boston's local-access cable TV and radio station.

"Peace for Veterans"

Rabbi Yaakov Trek Reef
Nov. 10th

11 on 11/11: It seemed as if, for just one moment, the world stood still. We will pause to reflect on what it means uphold our promise to Veterans everywhere by working for a world built on peace with justice.

Rabbi Yaakov 'Trek' Reef walks in the world as a spiritual teacher and is a regionally recognized speaker, serving as a frequent guest in the pulpit at synagogues, churches, and meeting houses throughout the Northeast. He has also led workshops and classes for the Star Island Natural History Conference, Elat Chayyim Center for Jewish Spirituality, and Seaside Yoga Retreat Center in Oregon. In 2016, he completed a pilgrimage along the storied Appalachian Trail, taking approximately five million steps over 2189.1 miles between Georgia and Maine to find a deeper connection to the awe-inspiring natural world.

"Spotlight on Grace and Edith Abbott"

Nov. 17th

Join us on Nov.17th to learn about the early (Unitarian) pioneers of Social Work, and Children's Rights!

"God is not God's Name"

Rev. Steve Edigton
Nov. 24th

Rev Edigton will share thoughts from his most recent publication by the same name.

Rev. Steve Edigton has served UU congregations for over 40 years. His previous books include "The Beat Face of God: The Beat Generation writer as Spirit Guides" and "Bring Your Own God: The Spirituality of Woody Guthrie". Rev. Edigton is the Minister Emeritus of the UU church of Nashua, NH. He and his wife, Michele, reside in Nashua.



Book Group Meeting
Friday November 22, 2019 at 7:30pm
in church office
Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?



Ladies Benevolent Society

The Ladies Benevolent Society will meet on **November 11th at 6pm** at an offsite location. Coffee and refreshments will be served. At this meeting, we will continue to work on crafts for the Lady B's table at the Winter Stroll in December. If you enjoy making crafts and are interested, please join us on Nov. 11th or ask a Lady B member when any extra crafting dates are scheduled.

Ladies, come and join us! Questions? Please contact Chris at cauhlig2002@yahoo.com or at church on Sunday.



These are examples of the crafts the "B's" are working on.

Lady B's Plant Sale



Like last year, the Lady B's will be having a fundraiser these holiday months selling Cyclamens and Poinsettias in various sized pots. There will be an order sheet available at Sunday services or you can place an order by contacting Chris Uhlig

Looking for "Member Musings" Writers

Are you interested in sharing your thoughts, a story, a poem that you wrote? Then consider writing for the "Members Musing" article on the front page of our newsletter. Please submit any articles to 1stchurchoffice@verizon.net!

First Church Unitarian Universalist
Mission Statement

We are an open and accepting community working for justice and equality for all through nurturing relationships and providing service to each other and in the greater community

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Attention!!
Newsletter via E-Mail

We are no longer doing a hardcopy bulk mailing. If you would like to continue receiving a copy or know someone who would like a copy, please contact the office and let us know your email address. Contact the office at 1stchurchoffice@verizon.net Subject: add to newsletter email

If you need a hard copy please call the office and give us your address.

Newsletter Contributions

If you want to contribute anything for December's newsletter, please send it to cauhlig2002@yahoo.com by

November 18th.

Dates to Remember

November

- Nov. 11th:** Lady B's Meeting 7 pm
- Nov. 14th:** PC Meeting 6:30 pm
- Nov. 21st:** Membership Committee Meeting 6:30 pm
- Nov. 22nd:** Book Group Meeting 7:30 pm
- Every Saturday:** Community Lunches, 1 to 3 pm in the downstairs hall.



November Birthdays

- Kevin CormierNov. 3
- Noah Schultz.....Nov. 7
- Jaden Doher.....Nov.16
- Lilith Ardinger.....Nov.18
- Amanda Woodward.....Nov.18



The Church with the Lighted Window

For the month of November, the Lighted Window has been dedicated to the memory of **Hans G. Uhlig** by Chris Uhlig. Even though it has been 21 years Dad, I miss you every day!

On Nov. 3rd



Grains and Greens Food Pantry

Winter is coming!
We are in desperate need of winter coats, skull hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and boots.
We also need soup!

All Donations Are Greatly Appreciated !!



Marilyn Murphy and Maggie (above) and Claire Griffin, Diane O'Hare and Dexter (to the right) attending the "Blessing of the Pets" church service.



Kids decided best costumes should go to Paula Murphy as a gay pride supporter and Marilyn Murphy as Dr. Dennis Elbow. Honorable mention to Diane O'Hare as the Trump/Ukraine whistleblower.